

(b) whether it is also a fact that huge bridges are yet to be constructed on many rivers including Bhutahi Balaan and Kamala Balaan rivers alongwith construction of mega bridge on river Kosi under this corridor but construction work is not being carried out as per the fixed target; and

(c) if so, comprehensive details thereof; and

(d) Government's viewpoint for speedy construction of the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Bridges on river Bhutahi Balaan and Kamla Balaan are part of ongoing construction packages due for completion by December, 2008. The bridge on river Kosi is being taken up on BOT (Annuity) basis. The contract has been awarded and the construction work is likely to start by April, 2007.

Golden Quadrilateral in Bihar

†382. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under Phase-I and Phase-II of National Highways Development Project total length of Golden Quadrilateral in Bihar is 206 kilometers and the construction of which has not yet been completed.

(b) whether it is a fact that a proposal for construction of stretch between Dobhi point to Bodh Gaya, Jahanabad, Masaudhi through Patna on the Golden Quadrilateral under Phase-III National Highways Development Project is under consideration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof in the context of both the above sections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Out of a total length of 206 km. under Golden Quadrilateral in Bihar, 191 km. has been completed. The remaining length of 15 km. is under implementation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) There is a proposal to include the stretch between Dobhi, Gaya, Jahanabad, Patna of NH-83 in NHDP-III.

Six laning of NH 5

383. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make NH 5 a six lane highway within the next two years;

(b) if so, whether any traffic study regarding the need for a six lane highway has been done;

(c) whether cost-benefit studies would be done before embarking on huge investments; and

(d) the steps proposed to avoid six laning where there is little traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Government has approved six laning of Golden Quadrilateral (which includes NH-5) on those stretches where traffic is more than a threshold level.

Foreign officers to man ships

384. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shipping industry has appealed to Government to allow it to hire foreign officers to man their ships;

(b) the details of such representations pending with DG, Shipping;

(c) the manner in which Government would help the shipping sector find all categories of crew; and

(d) the details of demands in this regard and the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Indian National Shipowners Association (INSA) has requested the Directorate General of Shipping to allow foreign